

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the title of the invention at page 1, line 1 with the following amended title:

SYSTEM AND METHOD USING INFORMATION-BASED INDICIA FOR SECURING
AND AUTHENTICATING TRANSACTIONS

Please replace the paragraph at page 1, lines 11-18 with the following amended paragraph:

The United States Post Office (USPO) has been considering electronic postage stamps for several years. According to the USPO (~~<http://56.0.78.92/html/ibimain.html>~~), electronic postage should be printed on an envelope in the upper right hand corner (or on a label for an envelope or package), convey evidence that postage has been paid, contain mail processing data requirements, and contain security-related data elements. As shown in Figure 1, the USPO desires that an electronic postage stamp be made up of human readable information as well as a two dimensional barcode with the following information: